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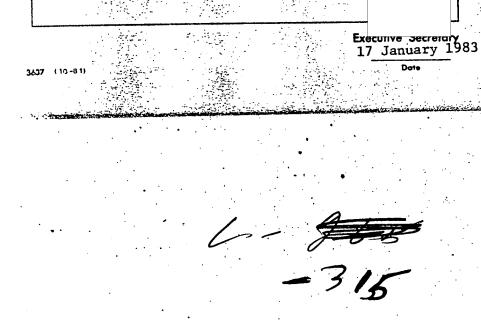
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83-0314



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

JAN 17 1983

Honorable William J. Casey Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Casey: (1)

We very much appreciate your willingness to support a vital national preparedness effort. As the administrator of the National Defense Executive Reserve (NDER) program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring a national conference for all of the National Defense Executive Reservists nationwide.

The conference, which has as its theme "Mobilization: A Critical Element of National Security," is scheduled for March 7-9, 1983, at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. This will be the first national conference for all of the Federal Government's NDERs since 1967. A tentative program agenda is enclosed.

The NDER program is a valuable asset to our country in time of any national emergency (wartime or peace-related), but the program is in critical need of revitalization. FEMA's program for improving the NDER has been discussed with the White House and is completely consistent with all of the President's policies on national preparedness, private sector initiative, etc.

The program, which was established in 1955, is designed to provide a cadre of high-level executives from business, industry, and the professions who could respond to the needs of the Government during periods of emergency. In the early days of the program, this objective was achieved. But, as the country's priorities changed from defense to domestic concerns, the caliber of the Executive Reservists dropped and the numbers on the standby rolls decreased.

During the past year, FEMA has initiated new recruiting efforts and has developed new training programs to help build up the program. For example, several of these reservists participated on a volunteer basis in the recent REX-82 BRAVO Exercise and proved how essential they would be if our country were to face a serious national emergency.

However, much more remains to be done. We need to attract some of this country's best executives. We need to keep their interest and enthusiasm for the program. This national conference will be one of the vehicles that can do this. We plan to keep the agenda unclassified so that we can invite candidates, as well as members of the reserve.

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The credibility of the conference and of the entire NDER program will be enhanced if the Government's leaders will address the participants. Your presentation is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 1983, from 10:20 a.m. - 11 a.m., on the intelligence implications of The World Scene: The Need for Readiness.

We also invite you to attend our Black Tie Banquet on Tuesday, March 8, 1983. The Honorable Edwin Meese III will be the speaker.

Your interest in this program is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Louis Of Giuffrid Director

Enclosure